distributorships, and in 4 cases, feasibility study of locations was to be re-done as earlier locations were not found commercially viable. Out of the remaining 449 cases approved for allotment in favour of the widow/ next of kin of the martyrs, 253 retail outlet dealerships and 131 LPG distributorships were commissioned, leaving a blance of 61 retail outlet dealerships and 4 LPG distributorships which were yet to be commissioned. Commissioning of these 65 dealerships/distributorships was held up owing to circumstances enumerated as under:—

(i) Work under progress	-1 case
(ii) Land obtained but clearance awaited.	-8 cases
(iii) Land identified	-10 cases
(iv) Looking for land	-25 cases
(v) Company-Owned-Company-Operated outlets offered	-2 cases
(vi) Letter of Intent to be issued	-11 cases
(vii) Reassessment of feasibility (earlier locations were not viable)	-7 cases
(viii) Request from allottee for change in locations.	-1 case

As can be seen, in most of the cases, delay in commissioning of the allotted dealerships/distributorships is attributable to issues related to acquisition of land. The public sector oil marketing companies, who are to commission these dealerships/distributorships, have been making efforts with Government authorities/private parties to obtain land, and also to complete other formalities for the expeditious commissioning of these allotments.

Decline in crude oil supply to IOC

266. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that British Gas, ONGC and Reliance Industries have decided to snap crude oil sale to IOC;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, and

(c) the alternate arrangements made by IOC to keep its refineries operational at optimum level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a)to(b) No, Sir. As per Production Sharing Contracts (PSC), crude oil available from Panna-Mukta, operated jointly by Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC), BG Exploration and Production India Limited (BGEPIL) and Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) are being purchased by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), the nominee of Government of India.

There is no proposal or request with the Government to change the Government nominee under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) for Panna-Mukta field.

(c) In view of the above, the question does not arise Use of

Modern Technology in oil exploration

267. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of sites where oil/gas exploration, both-on-shore and off-shore, is going on;

(b) the details of gas/oil reserves found recently; and

(c) the steps taken to use modern technology for bettering exploration success rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Exploration for Hydrocarbons is being carried out by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), Oil India Limited (Oil) and Private/Joint Venture companies in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur 'Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram' Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamii Nadu, Tripura, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal as well as offshore areas along the east and west coasts of India including deepwater area of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.